

10/522055

DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 20 JAN 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1- 19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~MethodA~~ method of non-invasive exploration for assessing the digestive motricity and/or transit of a human or animal subject, characterized in that it consists of comprising:

 said subject swallowing an ingestible transmitting element (E) which is non-digestible containing means transmitting at a given fixed frequency;

 measuring, at a given time using at least three reception means (R1, R2, R3) distributed around said subject's trunk, the phase shift of the frequency transmitted by said transmission means relative to a reference phase;

 determining by triangulation on the basis of the three phase-shift measurements the position of said element;

 defining, according to the position of said element, a data for the assessment of the digestive motricity and/or transit.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the measurements corresponding to the phase shift are stored in memory means (5).

3. (Currently Amended) MethodThe method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the receiving means (R1, R2, R3) are placed around the abdominal belt.

4. (Currently Amended) MethodThe method according to claim 1, characterized in that a series of position measurements are made which are spread over time.

5. (Currently Amended) MethodThe method according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, characterized in that a position reference measurement is made when the element is in the mouth of the subject, before he swallows it.

6. (Currently Amended) MethodThe method according to one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, characterized in that the power supply of the transmitting element (E) is triggered at given times and the corresponding phase-shift measurements at each given time are stored in the memory means (S).

7. (Currently Amended) MethodThe method according to any one of the preceding claimsclaim 1, characterized in that the amplitude of the transmission frequency of the transmission means is modulated as a function of the amplitude of a signal picked up by a sensor included in the transmitting element (E), said sensor being able to pick up a signal representing a physiological characteristic.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~The method according to any one of
the preceding claimsclaim 1, characterized in that said subject ingests several transmitting
elements over a period of time, each transmitting element having a characteristic frequency.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Non-invasive~~A non-invasive exploration
system for assessing the digestive motricity and/or transit of a human or animal subject, in
particular for the implementation of the method according to ~~claims 1 to 8~~claim 1,
characterized by: on the one hand:

an ingestible transmitting element (E) which cannot be digested by said subject
containing means transmitting at a given fixed frequency; and on the other hand:

receiving means (R_1, R_2, R_3) comprising at least three receivers (A_1, A_2, A_3)
intended to be placed around the trunk of said subject, each receiver being able to measure at
a given time the phase shift of said transmission frequency relative to a reference phase;

means for processing and analyzing ($3, 8$) the three phase-shift measurements
made by said receivers which are able to determine, by triangulation, the position of said
element.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~The system according to claim 9,
characterized in that it also comprises means for storing in the memory (5) the phase-shift
measurements made by the receivers at a given time.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~The system according to claim 9 or
10, characterized by a high transmission frequency.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~The system according to one of
claims 10 to 12claim 10, characterized in that the transmitting element-(E) comprises
integrated power supply means.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~The system according to one of claim
9 to 12claim 9, characterized in that the transmitting element-(E) comprises induced power
supply means.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~The system according to one of
claims 9 to 13claim 9, characterized in that the receivers-(R1, R2, R3) are distributed on a
belt-(1) which is able to be fixed on the trunk of the subject.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~The system according to claim 14,
characterized in that the belt also comprises means for the induction of the power supply of
said transmitting element.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~The system according to claim 14 or
15, characterized in that the analysis and processing means include a card comprising means

for analogue-to-digital conversion (ADC) of the signals picked up and memory means (5) common to the three receivers (R1, R2, R3) and arranged on the belt (1).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~ The system according to any one of ~~claims 9 or 16~~ claim 9, characterized by means (7) for connecting the memory means (5) to the processing and analysis means and for transferring the data relating to the phase shifts measured.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~ The system according to any one of ~~claims 9 to 17~~ claim 9, characterized in that the transmitting element (E) comprises a sensor which is able to pick up a signal representing a physiological characteristic, the amplitude of the frequency transmitted by the transmission means being able to be modulated as a function of the amplitude of the signal picked up by said sensor.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~ The system according to any one of ~~claims 9 to 18~~ claim 9, characterized in that it comprises several transmitting elements intended to be ingested by said subject over a period of time.